



Morristown Muster

Lafayette's return to Morristown in 1825

As America approached its 50th anniversary, President James Monroe and Congress invited the Marquis de Lafayette, the last surviving general of the War for Independence, to return to America as "the Nation's Guest." The younger generation felt that it was time to pay homage to their ancestors and it was hoped his visit would help renew the Spirit of 1776.

Lafayette's 13 month trip covered over 6,000 miles and included all 24 states. He visited every major American city as well as countless small towns along the way. He traveled by horse-drawn carriage, steamship, sailing ships, and even by canal boat on the newly constructed Erie Canal. One steamboat ran aground and sank in the Ohio River. He and his party escaped unhurt but most of their possessions were lost.

Much of his trip recalled the glories of the American Revolution. At every stop, old veterans would come out to greet him. He visited battlefields at Bunker Hill, Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine and Yorktown. Lafayette's visit actually saved Independence Hall, which was restored for his visit, generating the first effort in America to restore and preserve historic sites for future generations. His visit also caused a surge of monument construction. He helped lay the cornerstones for the Bunker Hill Monument as well as monuments to Generals Greene, DeKalb and Colonel Pulaski. He stopped at George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, paying a tearful visit to Washington's tomb.



Portrait of Marquis de Lafayette done in 1825 by artist Matthew Harris.

His hosts across the United States were a "Who's Who" of famous Americans. He met past, present and future Presidents of the United States including: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, and William Henry Harrison. He met Cabinet Secretaries, Senators, Congressmen, Governors, and Judges such as: Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Daniel Webster, and John Marshall. In New Jersey, Lafayette stopped in Bordentown to see Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's brother.

Lafayette's grand tour also brought him to Morristown, NJ. His visit on July 14, 1825, was typical of many of his stops in towns across America. He arrived at 6 p.m. after having visited Hackensack and Paterson. Accompanied by the Governor and local dignitaries, and escorted by the Morris Cavalry, the party rode past

the Ford Mansion, where Lafayette had stayed with Washington in May of 1780. As they neared town, cannons were fired and church bells rang. At a platform on Morristown Green, a welcoming address was read and Lafayette gave a brief response. The local band played, a choir sang patriotic airs, and people cheered. There was a dinner held at the Ogden House (now gone) on the corner of Market Street and the Green. Afterward, a ball was given at the Sansay house at 17 DeHart Street. Lafayette left Morristown the following day on his way to Washington, D.C. and eventually back to France.

Of course, no big trip is complete without souvenirs. In most towns he was offered old muskets or swords by descendants of Revolutionary War soldiers. He gallantly returned them to their owners with instructions to preserve them for their families. Others gifts that he kept included a live rattlesnake (venom removed), a prize-winning rowboat, and a ring containing a lock of George Washington's hair. Congress awarded Lafayette \$200,000 in government bonds for services rendered to the American Republic. Additionally, Congress awarded him 36 square miles of unsettled land near Tallahassee, Florida. Finally, Lafayette took a sack of dirt from Bunker Hill. This soil was placed in Lafayette's grave upon his death so that he could be buried in the soil of his homeland France and his adopted home, America.

Letter from the Superintendent

Summer is upon us and what better way to start the summer than to visit the park on Saturday, June 6th for National Trails Day! We have 27 miles of hiking in Jockey Hollow for you to hike with plenty of opportunities to explore the history and local wildlife that calls the area home.

Morristown NHP is teaming up again with the Morris County Tourism Bureau's *Revolutionary Times Event* the weekend of July 4th to celebrate the role Morris County played during the Revolution! On Friday, July 3rd, the park will host a live musical performance by the famous Old Barracks Fife and Drum Corp at the Washington's Headquarters Museum and Ford Mansion area. Saturday, July 4th, join park staff at the Presbyterian Church for the reading of the Declaration of Independence!

The biggest news of the summer, though, is that the National Park Service and we here at Morristown National Historical Park have a big year coming up as we celebrate the 100th birthday of the National Park Service in 2016! In honor of this 100th birthday, centennial programming will kick off this summer to create a second century of stewardship of America's national parks and engage you through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs.

Whether you're a local visitor, a national park traveler, or a virtual explorer, Morristown NHP hopes that the NPS 100th Anniversary will inspire you to experience and connect with this park and others that has inspired 100 years of protection and that will continue to enchant and delight visitors and stewards for another 100 years!

Sincerely,
Thomas E. Ross
Superintendent
Morristown National Historical Park

General comte de Rochambeau

General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau was born in 1725, the third son of a wealthy family with strong military tradition. When his elder brother died, 15-year-old Rochambeau embarked on a military career. In 1756, Rochambeau's valor during the Seven Years' War was rewarded with the promotion to brigadier general.

Rochambeau was chosen in 1778 to lead an invasion of Great Britain. The objective was to take advantage of Britain's weakened defenses, since such a large portion of the British troops were sent to America. The invasion was planned for 1779 but soon fell apart due to factors of poor naval planning and disease.

France had recognized America as an independent nation and was committed to helping her new allies. The French forces would fight alongside the Americans and Rochambeau was chosen to command the new expedition and promoted to Lieutenant General. He set off on the expedition with 5,500 men in May 1780.

Rochambeau placed himself under General George Washington's command and through tact, charm, and wisdom was able to win over his former enemies. The French General and his disciplined forces were able to win over the American people, the Continental troops, and General George Washington himself. The logistical maneuvering and siege of Yorktown was Rochambeau's greatest military achievement.

After Yorktown, General Washington had to head northward in case further military action was needed. General Rochambeau and his forces spent the winter quartered in and around Williamsburg, Virginia. He met Washington in Philadelphia in 1782, and again at Washington's Hudson River



Portrait of General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau by Charles Willson Peale circa 1782.

camp to celebrate the anniversary of the Yorktown victory. Rochambeau sailed for France in January of 1783.

Upon his return to France, Rochambeau was awarded the Cordon Bleu of the Order of the Saint Esprit. He was appointed commander of the Northern Military District, stayed active in the Society of the Cincinnati, and exchanged letters with Washington over time. General Rochambeau died in 1807 at the age of 83, a decorated military asset of France and an American hero.

Lafayette's Ship: L'Hermione

After spending over a year in France seeking aid for the American cause, the Marquis de Lafayette returned to America aboard a brand-new French frigate, L'Hermione, in April 1780. From the entrance of Boston harbor aboard the L'Hermione, Lafayette wrote to George Washington on April 27, 1780: *"Here I am, My dear General. . .I Came from France on Board of a frigate which the king gave me for my passage. I have affairs of the utmost importance that I should first Communicate to You alone."* He brought secret news that the French were sending ships and an army of 5,500 men to assist Washington. These would be the troops that eventually would fight at the victory at Yorktown.

Lafayette's ship, the L'Hermione, was a brand new 32-gun frigate with a crew of 255 men. Frigates were three-masted sailing ships that were heavily armed but very fast compared to the huge lumbering ships of the line. Lafayette was very impressed with the L'Hermione.



Modern day replica of the L'Hermione, the ship Lafayette used in 1780 to deliver the news to General Washington that the French were going to send French troops and Navy to help fight the British during the American Revolution.

He made the crossing in 38 days despite fighting periods of no wind or contrary winds. He wrote to his wife that the ship had: "excellent sailing qualities" and that it "sails like a bird."

The L'Hermione continued to serve in North America after bringing Lafayette to Boston. She stopped in Philadelphia and received the American Congress on board in May 1781. L'Hermione fought in several engagements including the naval battle of Louisbourg on July 21, 1781. She returned to France in 1782 and met her end in 1793 when she ran aground and sank.

The L'Hermione was reborn in 1997 when construction began in France on a full-size working replica of the L'Hermione, which will visit America in 2015. The modern Hermione will have a crew of 78 people including 17 professional seamen and volunteers. For safety, the replica ship also includes an engine and electric generators for lighting and basic amenities. In 2015, Hermione will make a nearly four-month itinerary across the Atlantic and up the eastern coast of America from April to mid-August. Nearby ports of call for the Hermione will be Philadelphia from June 25-28 and New York City from July 1-4. For more information visit www.Hermione.com.



National
Park Service
Centennial

On August 25, 2016, the National Park Service turns 100! The Centennial will kick off a second century of stewardship of America's national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs, and will celebrate achievements of the past 100 years.

2016

National Park Service
CENTENNIAL



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Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route

In June and July, 1781, after spending the year in Newport, French General Rochambeau marched through Rhode Island and Connecticut to join Washington's Army just north of New York City. Then in August, word came from Admiral de Grasse that a French fleet, which had been active in the West Indies, was on its way north - but not to New York. He proposed a rendezvous with the allied forces on the Chesapeake where they might intercept Cornwallis, commander of Britain's Southern campaign.

Time was short, the distance great, and surprise essential. Rochambeau's army set out from Suffern, New York, on August 25th, on a carefully planned route down the Ramapo Valley via Pompton Plains, Whippany, to Liberty



Trail sign that shows the various ways the armies of Washington and Rochambeau took to the siege of Yorktown, Virginia.

Comer; and then via the Millstone Valley to Princeton, Trenton, and across the Delaware to arrive in Philadelphia September 3rd. Washington, meanwhile, deployed the American forces along a variety of eastern routes, feinting the possibility of an attack on Staten Island, before turning inland to Trenton and Philadelphia.

Today the 680 miles traveled by the armies of Washington and Rochambeau traveled both on land and water to

and from the siege at Yorktown are commemorated by The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. The National Historic Trail (NHT) passes through Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

The NHT offers a variety of experiences as you follow the steps taken by American and French soldiers. Major cities such as Boston, Philadelphia, and Alexandria still maintain much of their historic fabric despite growing tremendously since 1781, while New York's Hudson River Valley and Virginia's rural farmland seem to have changed very little. The NHT also follows many roads which have been in existence since the 18th century. Whether you travel 680 miles or just the few that pass through your hometown, we invite you to discover the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail. For more information visit these websites www.nps.gov/waro and www.w3r-nj.com.



Become a Morristown National Historical Park Junior Ranger!

Planning a trip to Morristown National Historical Park? Explore our revolutionary past and discover fascinating facts about the events, people, places and things in historic Morristown by asking for a Junior Ranger Handbook. You can get a copy of the handbook at Jockey Hollow or at Washington's Headquarters.

Complete and present the handbook to a park ranger at Jockey Hollow or Washington's Headquarters and receive your Junior Ranger badge for a job well done.

Go to www.nps.gov/morr/forkids to download a copy of the Junior Ranger booklet and get started today!



Summer Ranger Led Activities



Morristown NHP offers a variety of ranger-guided programs throughout the summer. Hear about Revolutionary War history and everyday life in the 18th century, visit the past in living history presentations, or hike through Jockey Hollow. There are programs for everyone. Ranger programs are free!

For a complete listing of programs and events, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/morr. Click the Calendar link on the home page.